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Garrison Training

1. Winter training in the home station and summer training in the summer area were identical and included four phases: individual, squad (e.g. motorcycle or armored car), section, and advanced on platoon and company level. Training was conducted by NCO's and officers; at company level it was by company commanders.
2. Newly drafted recruits did not always get basic training in the USSR. [redacted] (1929) and the classes of 1930 and 1931 received basic training in the Soviet Zone of Germany. [redacted] recruits were given basic training by the officers and NCO's of the 93rd Sep Mtrcl Bn [redacted] separately for about three months, and [redacted] trained with the other troops. [redacted]
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3. The daily schedule in winter training, for NCO's and privates was:

- 0600 to 0605 - reveille
- 0605 to 0620 - physical training
- 0620 to 0630 - preparation for inspection
- 0630 to 0640 - morning inspection, roll call
- 0640 to 0700 - political orientation or close order drill
- 0700 to 0900 - training
- 0900 to 0930 - breakfast
- 0930 to 1600 - training
- 1600 to 1800 - dinner and rest period
- 1800 to 1830 - cleaning weapons
- 1830 to 2040 - political training
- 2040 to 2120 - supper
- 2120 to 2220 - free time
- 2220 to 2240 - evening roll call
- 2240 to 2300 - evening march in formation
- 2300 - taps

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4. Of the 46 hours of training per week, about 10 hours were for close order drill; eight for aiming and sighting exercises; four for bayonet practice; 10 for maintenance and vehicle driving training; six for tactical training, one for chemical warfare; one for medical lectures; two for map reading and four for political lectures. The political lectures, of two hours duration, were held on Tuesdays and Fridays; the evening political training from 1830 to 2040 was in addition to these lectures and consisted of preparations (debates, study) for the political lectures. They did not directly prepare the troops for combat but dealt with the glory of the Soviet Army and Stalin, and the fact that the USSR would not permit the degradation of its workers to the level of workers in the capitalistic countries.
5. For about eight days during the winter training and about 12 days during the summer training the men went to the range for target practice. This practice was conducted at the end of the training period, just before the arrival of the inspecting teams. [] fired 10 rounds from a submachine gun and 25 from a machine gun, from stationary and moving (armored car) positions at bull's eye targets and head and chest silhouettes.
6. During winter training the battalion went on four bivouacs in order to test the combat readiness of the troops. The movements of our battalion were on motorcycles, in armored cars and by truck.
7. Night training was conducted at company level for two weeks at the end of February 1951. All this entailed was that the regular daily training schedule was conducted at night and the days were used to sleep. The night training schedule was in effect for the entire 57th Gds Rifle Div and was conducted to accustom the soldiers to night action.

See enclosure (A) for a sketch of the Winter Quarters in Weissenfels, with a key to identify buildings and installations thereon.

Summer Training and Maneuvers

8. The 93rd Sep Mtrcl Bn entrained in Weissenfels from 0800-1600 on 24 Apr 51 and then left for the summer training area at 2300 the same day. It took us about 12 hours to reach Eisenach, the summer area. One officer and 12 enlisted men were left behind for guard duty; no one was left for training. [] battalion, with a complement of about 22 officers, 33 NCO's and 155 privates, had about 40 railroad cars to move personnel, supplies and equipment. About 30 men, each with his personal equipment, were loaded into each railroad freight car. All equipment, weapons and ammunition, except for three half-tracked vehicles mounting 57 mm guns and 300 rounds of ammunition for the guns, were taken to the summer camp in 1951. The battalion turned its NZ (Neprikosnovennyi Zapasy - emergency stocks) of weapons, ammunition and food in to the 8th Gds Army ammunition depot in Altenhain. In 1950 the NZ had been left behind in the Weissenfels winter garrison.
9. An advance element of the 174th Gds Rifle Regt, 57th Gds Rifle Div was present in the summer training area when the 93rd Sep Mtrcl arrived. []
10. We were busy for about one week setting up tents, messhalls and clubs, fixing the training installations and so forth. Actual training began on 2 May 51. See enclosure (B) for a sketch of the summer training area with a key to identify buildings and installations thereon.
11. The daily training schedule was:
 - 0500 - reveille
 - 0505 - physical training
 - 0520 - preparation for inspection
 - 0530 - inspection and roll call
 - 0540 - political orientation or close order drill
 - 0600 - training
 - 0800 - breakfast
 - 0830 - training

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1500 - cleaning rifles
 1530 - dinner and rest period
 1730 - political training
 2000 - supper
 2030 - free time
 2130 - roll call
 2140 - evening walk
 2200 - taps

50X1 The training breakdown was the same as that described in garrison training. Free
 50X1 time in the evening was used to clean individual weapons and clothing. Saturday
 50X1 afternoon and Sunday were free days and were not used for training. Saturday
 morning was "Park Day".

12. Officers and enlisted men were restricted to the summer training area but not to their immediate unit areas. We, for example, attended movies shown by the 174th Gds Rifle Regt and played in or watched ball games at neighboring units. All personnel were prohibited from visiting German homes or public places; this regulation was enforced by Kommandatura patrols and a first offense usually brought a sentence of 10 days in the guardhouse, with a second resulting in court martial. Some patrols were more lenient than others. [] ate from mess kits in a messhall in Eisenach. [] battalion had its own messhall, partly for enlisted men and partly for officers. The kitchens were in permanent buildings. About four kilometers from the training area was a small lake where bathing facilities were set up. Once a week troops could bathe there; they received clean underwear after the "bath". Recreational facilities included free movies on Saturday and Sunday evenings and athletic events on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. Main causes of complaint among personnel were lack of freedom and poor food.

13. In 1950 [] battalion returned to Weissenfels by rail in October. About 10 men were left at Eisenach to break camp, remove tents, clean the area and so forth. They returned to Weissenfels after five days.

14. Twice annually, once at the end of winter training and once at the end of summer, an inspection team from the Ministry of Armed Forces in Moscow inspected training. The teams were made up of specialists: three political officers, two or three artillery officers, two or three technical officers, two or three infantry officers and other specialists as appropriate. Several officers from GOFG and the 8th Gds Army were with the inspecting teams. The battalion commander told the troops of the 93rd Sep Mtrcl Bn that the teams from Moscow would inspect all training activity. The teams checked political knowledge of the troops in the classrooms, went on the firing range and drill areas, and checked every phase of training. The inspections lasted four to five days.

Division Staff Training Exercise

15. On 20 Jun 51 the 57th Gds Rifle Div had a large-scale staff training exercise for officers of all units of the division. Five motorcycles with sidecars from the 93rd Sep Mtrcl Bn carrying five officers (battalion commander, artillery officer, signal officer, chief of staff and motorcycle company commander) and 10 enlisted men drove to the Eisenach railroad station and entrained for Dresden. About 100 other officers from various units of the division, mostly field grade, and about 50 enlisted men also entrained. General Shulga, commanding general of the 57th Gds Rifle Div, was present with his staff at Eisenach railroad station. Enlisted men did not receive special training for the exercise

16. After the motorcycle group of the 93rd Sep Mtrcl Bn arrived in Dresden, it was sent to a forest near the city with the mission of reconnoitering "enemy" territory, gathering intelligence on "enemy" chemical supplies and lines of communication, and to report information to the division headquarters at the nearby airdrome every half-hour by motorcycle courier.

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17. On 23 June the motorcycle reconnaissance group proceeded to Dresden airdrome, where Gen Shulga was located, together with his staff and 100 officers and 50 enlisted men of the 57th Gds Rifle Div. The enlisted men were specialists who maintained communications, drove vehicles and so forth. At the airdrome were 20 Ilyushin-II twin-engined transport planes, some loaded with two motorcycles and 14 men each and some with officers. The transports flew for about 40 minutes and landed at Altenberg, where the motorcycles and their crews disembarked and drove to the forest. The motorcycle crews were then assumed to have landed to the rear of the enemy lines and had the mission of gathering intelligence about troop strengths, dispositions and equipment. After the training period was completed the crews and motorcycles were returned to Eisenach by train, arriving there 25 Jun 51.

Other Training

18. In the summer and fall of 1950 the 93rd Sep Mtrcl Bn conducted an NCO school which lasted five months. Thirty privates of the 57th Gds Rifle Div, [redacted] attended the course. The enlisted men were selected for political reliability, intelligence and good character. Officers and NCO's instructed the students in combat training, political indoctrination, tactics, weapons usage and other appropriate subjects. Students were graduated as sergeants.

19. [redacted] no air-ground support training, AT guns or AT training, artillery support training or tank-infantry cooperation training. [redacted] no displays or tactical use of new weapons. The sole mission of the battalion was to provide reconnaissance and combat intelligence for the 57th Gds Rifle Div. During training and maneuvers the battalion was trained in discovering enemy strength, location, communications, and supply points; how to destroy enemy communications lines and supply points; how to aid the division by driving around the enemy flanks in order to attack his rear; and how to act as couriers and general reconnaissance troops.

20. A chemical warfare instructor in the battalion conducted gas mask drills, lectured on defensive means and discussed the most basic gases. [redacted] these included tear gas, skin gases, and nerve gases [redacted] Defensive measures were masks, protective clothing and protective covering [redacted]

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ENCLOSURE (A) Summer Quarters of Units of the 57th Gds Rifle Div and 21st Tank Div.
ENCLOSURE (B) Winter Quarters of Units of the 57th Gds Rifle Div in Weiseenfels.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

Legend

1. Barracks of 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn - three story stone, 10 x 40 m; contained headquarters and offices of the battalion on ground floor; was not fully occupied - housed about 190 men and has a capacity of 500.
2. Barracks of 17th Tk Regt - three story stone, each 10 x 40 m; each held about 500 men.
3. 174th Gds Rifle Regt area
4. Barracks of 174th Rifle Regt - three story stone, each 10 x 40 m; house about 500 men each.
5. 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn ammunition and weapons supply - one story stone, 10 x 50 m
6. Garages for scout cars, half-tracks, trucks, cars and motorcycles of the 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn - one story stone, 8 x 60 m
7. Repair workshop and spare parts depot of 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn - two story stone, 5 x 8 m
8. Garages for tanks and other vehicles of the 17th Tk Regt - one story stone, 10 x 120 m; 8a is about 10 x 200 m; 8b is used for ammunition and small arms storage
9. Repair shop for 17th Tk Regt - one story stone, 10 x 10 m
10. Gymnasium of 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn and 17th Tk Regt - one story stone, 15 x 40 m
11. Guardhouse for 17th Tk Regt - holds about 20 guards
12. Check points
13. Enlisted men's messhall - two story stone, 10 x 40 m; ground floor for 17th Tk Regt, top floor for 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn
14. Exercise area - about 120 x 120 m
15. Underground POL tanks for vehicles of 17th Tk Regt
16. Barracks for German police (no connection with Soviet troops) - three story stone, 20 x 60 m
17. Stadium, 120 x 120 m
18. Kommandatura - two story stone, 20 x 10 m; jail in basement
19. Messhall for officers of the 93d Sep Mtrcl and 17th Tk Regt - three story stone, 10 x 20 m
20. Officers' billets for 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn - three story brick, 10 x 20 m; occupied by about 20 officers (two per room)
21. Officers' billets for 17th Tk Regt - three story brick, 10 x 20 m each
22. Road to Weissenfels
23. Exercise area for 174th Gds Rifle Regt - 80 x 200 m
24. Officers club - one story, 15 x 40 m; capacity about 600; for use of 17th Tk Regt, 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn and 174th Gds Rifle Regt
25. Dispensary for 17th Tk Regt, 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn and 174th Gds Rifle Regt - two story stone, 10 x 20 m
26. Garage for vehicles of 174th Gds Rifle Regt - has no front well; size not known, possibly 20 x 120 m

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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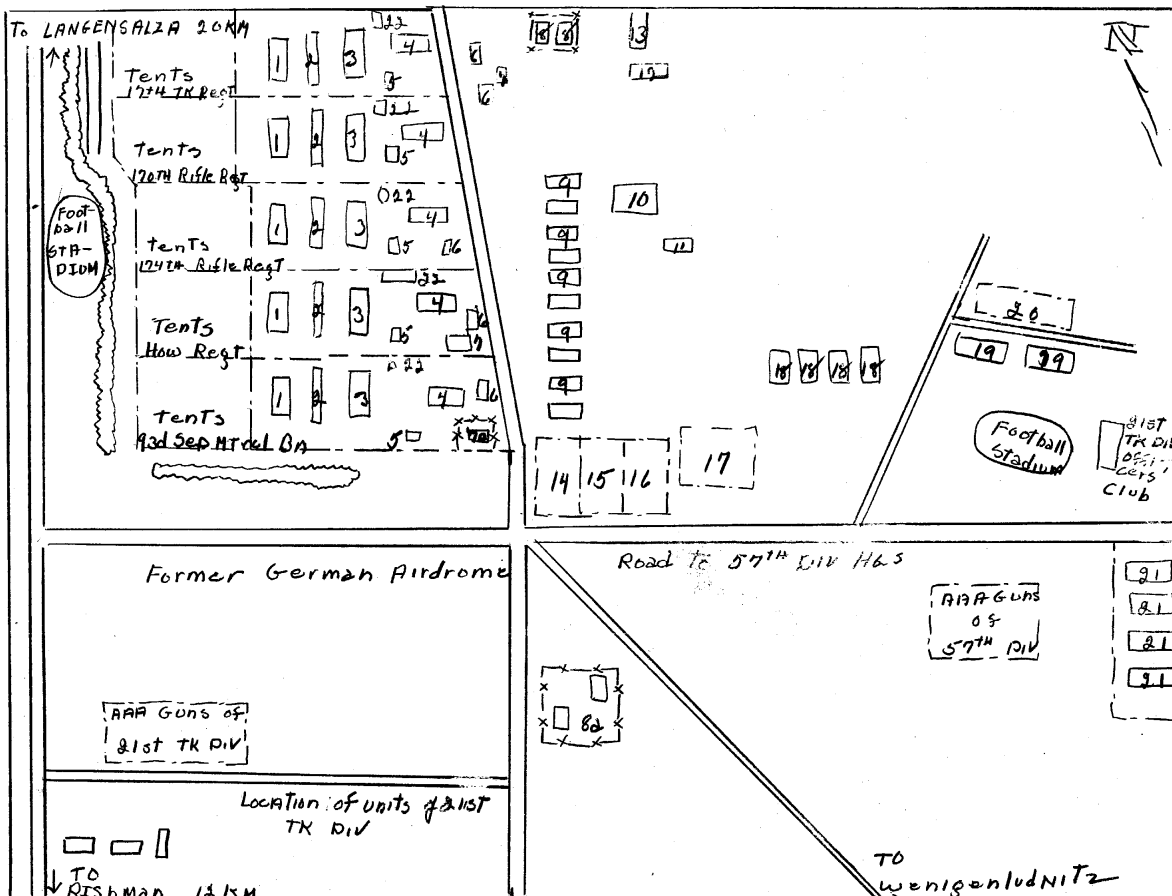
27. Repair workshop for 174th Gds Rifle Regt - two story stone, 10 x 20 m
28. Ammunition storage point - fenced off area, 100 x 150 m, enclosed by a fence two m high; ammunition for the units of the 57th Gds Rifle Div; guarded by the guards at 29
29. Guardhouse - two story brick, 10 x 20 m; room for 20 guards
30. Ammunition storage point for 174th Gds Rifle Regt - two story stone, 8 x 25 m
31. Ammunition storage point for a unit (not identified) of the 57th Gds Rifle Div - two story stone, 8 x 10 m
32. Ammunition storage point for 93d Sep Mtrol Bn - one story stone, 10 x 20 m
33. Ammunition storage point for 17th Tk Regt - two story stone, 10 x 25 m
34. Houses for officers of the 174th Gds Rifle Regt - two and three story houses, both wooden and brick

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ENCLOSURE (B)

Summer Quarters of Units of the 57th Gds Rifle Div and 21st Tk Div



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ENCLOSURE (B)

Legend

Tent areas - canvas tents for enlisted men, each 5 x 5 m, house 10-12 men each;
double wooden planks are used for beds

1. "Lenin room" - one story wooden political club buildings, 8 x 10 m
2. Weapons sheds - one story wooden buildings, 5 x 30 m
3. Unit headquarters - one story wooden buildings, 5 x 15 m
4. Enlisted men's messhalls - one story wooden buildings, 10 x 40 m
5. Guardhouses - one story wooden buildings, 6 x 10 m
6. Food and clothing supply - one story wooden buildings 6 x 10 m
7. Weapons repair shops - one story wooden buildings, 6 x 10 m. In the case of the 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn the building (7a) was the ammunition supply building as well; the whole was enclosed by a barbed wire fence two m high
8. Ammunition supply buildings for the 170th Rifle Regt - one story wood, 8 x 15 m, enclosed by a barbed wire fence two m high
- 8a. Ammunition supply buildings for the 174th Rifle Regt and the Howitzer Regt - one story wood, 8 x 15 m, enclosed by a barbed wire fence two m high
9. Officers' barracks - one story wooden buildings, 6 x 20 m, 10 officers per batracks, two per room
10. Officers' club - one story wooden building, 15 x 40 m; had room for the 600-700 officers of all units of the 57th Gds Rifle Div
11. Officers' restaurant - one story wooden building, 10 x 25 m
12. Barber shop - one story wooden building, 6 x 10 m
13. Voyentorg (PX) - one story wooden building, 10 x 15 m
14. Garage for How Regt - former hangar; cement floor; about 40-50 x 30 m; contains howitzers and trucks
15. Garage for vehicles of 174th Rifle Regt - former German hangar; cement floor; mainly destroyed; about 30 x 40 m
16. Garage for vehicles of 170th Rifle Regt - former German hangar; cement floor; partly destroyed; about 30 x 40 m
17. Garage for vehicles of 93d Sep Mtrcl Bn - former German hangar; partly destroyed; cement floor; about 30 x 40 m
18. Small wooden huts - used by headquarters and staff officers of the 57th Gds Rifle Div; one story; 5 x 5 m; two officers in each hut
19. 57th Gds Rifle Div Hq - one story wooden buildings, 7 x 20 m
20. Tents - for offices ((d, CQ, etc) of the 57th Gds Rifle Div Hq; each 5 x 5 m
21. Food and clothing supply of the 57th Gds Rifle Div - one story wooden buildings 5 x 15 m
22. Dispensaries - one story wooden buildings, 4 x 8 m

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